

## **IC 25-23.6-5**

### **Chapter 5. Social Workers; Certification; Examinations**

## **IC 25-23.6-5-1**

### **Social worker license requirements**

Sec. 1. An individual who applies for a license as a social worker must meet the following requirements:

(1) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual:

(A) has received at least a bachelor's degree in social work from:

(i) an institution of higher education that is accredited or approved for candidacy by the Council on Social Work Education or approved by the board; or

(ii) a foreign school that has a program of study that is approved by the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on Social Work Education; and has completed two (2) years of experience in the practice of social work under the supervision of a licensed social worker, a licensed clinical social worker, or an equivalent supervisor, as determined by the board, after receiving the bachelor's degree; or

(B) has a master's degree in social work from:

(i) an institution of higher education approved by the board; or

(ii) a foreign school that has a program of study that is approved by the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on Social Work Education.

(2) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual does not have a conviction for a crime that has a direct bearing on the individual's ability to practice competently.

(3) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual has not been the subject of a disciplinary action by a licensing or certification agency of another state or jurisdiction on the grounds that the individual was not able to practice as a social worker without endangering the public.

(4) Pass an examination provided by the board.

(5) Pay the fee established by the board.

*As added by P.L.186-1990, SEC.9. Amended by P.L.1-1994, SEC.126; P.L.255-1996, SEC.21; P.L.147-1997, SEC.47.*

## **IC 25-23.6-5-2**

### **Clinical social worker license requirements**

Sec. 2. An individual who applies for a license as a clinical social worker must meet the following requirements:

(1) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual has received:

(A) a doctoral degree in social work from an institution of higher education that at the time of graduation was accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the

United States Department of Education; or  
(B) at least a master's degree in social work from:

- (i) an institution of higher education accredited or approved for candidacy by the Council on Social Work Education; or
- (ii) a foreign school that has a program of study accredited by the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work or a program equivalent to a program approved by the Council on Social Work Education by the Foreign Equivalency Determination Service of the Council on Social Work Education.

The graduate program under this subdivision must have emphasized direct clinical or client health services as provided under section 3.1 of this chapter.

(2) Meet the clinical social work experience requirements under section 3.5 of this chapter.

(3) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual does not have a conviction for a crime that has a direct bearing on the individual's ability to practice competently.

(4) Furnish satisfactory evidence to the board that the individual has not been the subject of a disciplinary action by a licensing or certification agency of another state or jurisdiction on the grounds that the individual was not able to practice as a social worker or clinical social worker without endangering the public.

(5) Pass an examination provided by the board.

(6) Pay a fee established by the board.

*As added by P.L.186-1990, SEC.9. Amended by P.L.33-1993, SEC.41; P.L.255-1996, SEC.22; P.L.147-1997, SEC.48.*

### **IC 25-23.6-5-3 Repealed**

*(Repealed by P.L.147-1997, SEC.75.)*

### **IC 25-23.6-5-3.1**

#### **Graduate program providing clinical experience**

Sec. 3.1. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), a graduate program is considered to have emphasized direct clinical patient or clinic health care services if the graduate program meets the following requirements:

- (1) Required coursework in clinical social work and related areas such as psychiatric social work, medical social work, social case work, case management, psychotherapy, group therapy, and any other coursework accepted by the board.
- (2) Required a supervised field placement that was part of the applicant's advanced concentration in direct practice, during which the applicant provided clinical services directly to clients.
- (3) Required completion of twenty-four (24) semester hours or thirty-seven (37) quarter hours of clinically oriented services courses in the theory and research of human behavior and social environment and practice methods. However, if the graduate

degree was obtained before October 1, 1990, and the applicant submitted an application under section 3 of this chapter (before its repeal) before July 1, 1999, twenty-one (21) semester hours or thirty-one (31) quarter hours in clinically oriented services are required. Not more than six (6) semester hours or nine (9) quarter hours of the clinically oriented services courses may be from independent study coursework.

If the applicant's transcript does not clearly identify the content of the coursework, the applicant shall submit a syllabus, a course catalog description, or other documentation that describes the coursework.

(b) An applicant who graduated from a graduate program that did not emphasize direct patient or client services may complete the clinical curriculum requirement by returning to a graduate program allowed under section 2(1)(B) of this chapter to complete the education requirements.

(c) Coursework that was taken at a baccalaureate level does not meet the requirements under this section unless an official of the graduate program certifies that the specific course, which a student enrolled in the same graduate program was ordinarily required to complete at the graduate level, was waived or exempted based on completion of a similar course at the baccalaureate level.

*As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.49.*

### **IC 25-23.6-5-3.5**

#### **Clinical social work experience; requirements**

Sec. 3.5. (a) The applicant for a license as a clinical social worker must have at least three (3) years of clinical social work experience. Two (2) years of the clinical social work experience must take place after receiving the graduate degree in social work under the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker or an equivalent supervisor, as determined by the board.

(b) If the applicant's graduate program did not emphasize direct clinical patient care or client health care services, the supervised clinical social work experience requirement must take place after the applicant has completed at least fifteen (15) semester hours or twenty-two (22) quarter hours of the required coursework.

(c) A doctoral internship may be applied toward the supervised clinical social work experience requirement.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (e), the clinical social work experience requirement may be met by work performed at or away from the premises of the supervising clinical social worker.

(e) The clinical social work requirement may not be performed away from the supervising clinical social worker's premises if:

- (1) the work is the independent private practice of clinical social work; and
- (2) the work is not performed at a place with the supervision of a licensed clinical social worker or an equivalent supervisor available, as determined by the board.

*As added by P.L.147-1997, SEC.50.*

**IC 25-23.6-5-4****Examination; minimum requirements**

Sec. 4. An individual who satisfies the requirements of section 1 or 2 of this chapter and section 3 of this chapter may take the examination provided by the board.

*As added by P.L.186-1990, SEC.9.*

**IC 25-23.6-5-5****Examinations; time and place**

Sec. 5. The board shall provide for examinations to be given at least once annually at times and places established by the board.

*As added by P.L.186-1990, SEC.9.*

**IC 25-23.6-5-6****Issuance of license**

Sec. 6. The board shall issue a license to an individual who:

- (1) achieves a passing score, as determined by the board, on the examination provided under this chapter; and
- (2) is otherwise qualified under this article.

*As added by P.L.186-1990, SEC.9. Amended by P.L.147-1997, SEC.51.*

**IC 25-23.6-5-7****Repealed**

*(Repealed by P.L.33-1993, SEC.74.)*

**IC 25-23.6-5-8****Repealed**

*(Repealed by P.L.33-1993, SEC.74.)*

**IC 25-23.6-5-9****Duration of license; renewal**

Sec. 9. (a) A license issued by the board is valid for the remainder of the renewal period in effect on the date the license was issued.

(b) An individual may renew a license by:

- (1) paying a renewal fee on or before the expiration date of the license; and
- (2) completing not less than twenty (20) hours of continuing education per licensure year.

(c) If an individual fails to pay a renewal fee on or before the expiration date of a license, the license becomes invalid.

*As added by P.L.186-1990, SEC.9. Amended by P.L.147-1997, SEC.52.*

**IC 25-23.6-5-10****Reinstatement of invalid license**

Sec. 10. (a) The board may reinstate an invalid license up to three (3) years after the expiration date of the license if the individual holding the invalid license meets the requirements under IC 25-1-8-6.

(b) If more than three (3) years have elapsed since the date a

license expired, the individual holding the license may renew the license by satisfying the requirements for renewal established by the board and meeting the requirements under IC 25-1-8-6.

*As added by P.L.186-1990, SEC.9. Amended by P.L.147-1997, SEC.53; P.L.269-2001, SEC.21.*

#### **IC 25-23.6-5-11**

##### **Temporary permit; requirements; expiration; renewal**

Sec. 11. (a) The board may issue a temporary permit to an individual to profess to be a social worker or clinical social worker if the individual pays a fee and the individual:

- (1) has a valid license or certificate to practice from another state and the individual has passed an examination substantially equivalent to the level for which licensure is being requested;
- (2) is practicing in a state that does not license or certify social workers or clinical social workers, but is certified by a national association approved by the board and the individual has applied for a license from the board; or
- (3) has been approved by the board to take the examination and has graduated from a school or program approved by the board and the individual has completed any experience requirement.

(b) A temporary permit expires the earlier of:

- (1) the date the individual holding the permit is issued a license under this article;
- (2) the date the board disapproves the individual's license application; or
- (3) one hundred eighty (180) days after the initial permit is issued.

(c) The board may renew a temporary permit if the individual holding the permit was scheduled to take the next examination and the individual:

- (1) did not take the examination; and
- (2) shows good cause for not taking the examination.

(d) A permit renewed under subsection (c) expires on the date the individual holding the permit receives the results from the next examination given after the permit was issued, and may not be extended if the applicant has failed the examination.

*As added by P.L.186-1990, SEC.9. Amended by P.L.255-1996, SEC.23; P.L.147-1997, SEC.54.*

#### **IC 25-23.6-5-12**

##### **Notification of retirement from practice**

Sec. 12. (a) An individual who is licensed under this article shall notify the board in writing when the individual retires from practice.

(b) Upon receipt of the notice, the board shall:

- (1) record the fact the individual is retired; and
- (2) release the individual from further payment of renewal fees and continuing education requirements.

*As added by P.L.186-1990, SEC.9. Amended by P.L.147-1997, SEC.55.*

**IC 25-23.6-5-13**

**Repealed**

*(Repealed by P.L.33-1993, SEC.74.)*

**IC 25-23.6-5-14**

**Exemption from examination requirement**

Sec. 14. An individual who applies for a license under this article may be exempted by the board from the examination requirement under this chapter if the individual:

- (1) is licensed or certified to practice as a social worker or clinical social worker in another state and has passed an examination substantially equivalent to the level for which the individual is requesting licensure;
- (2) has engaged in the practice of social work or the practice of clinical social work for not less than three (3) of the previous five (5) years;
- (3) has passed a licensing examination substantially equivalent to the licensing examination under this article;
- (4) has passed an examination pertaining to the social work and clinical social work laws and rules of this state; and
- (5) has not committed any act or is not under investigation for any act that constitutes a violation of this article;

and is otherwise qualified under section 1 or 2 of this chapter and section 3 of this chapter and pays an additional fee.

*As added by P.L.186-1990, SEC.9. Amended by P.L.255-1996, SEC.24; P.L.147-1997, SEC.56.*

**IC 25-23.6-5-15**

**Repealed**

*(Repealed by P.L.33-1993, SEC.74.)*